

Remarks

The applicant cancels herein claims 1 through 5, 8 and 15. New claim 16 has been added. Claim 16 includes the subject matter of claims 1 through 3 and 8, as well as claims 4 and 5. Claim 16 is clearly patentable over the references record, as none of the references teach a porous reaction-bonded magnesia body membrane support having the properties set forth in the claim along with the membrane suitable for gas separations on such membrane support.

The applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the canceled claims. The applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the claims as amended.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned in Westborough, Massachusetts, (508) 898-1501.

Respectfully submitted,



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